AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling cassettes for bank notes, comprising the steps:

determining the filling level of at least one cassette,

comparing the determined filling level of the at least one cassette with at least one threshold value lower than a maximum capacity of the at least one cassette,

producing a signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value if the comparison yields an excess, and

causing a replacement of the at least one cassette for which the signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value was produced;

wherein information about the bank notes contained in the at least one cassette is stored as cassette data, in a special, non-evaluable data format, in a nonvolatile memory associated with the at least one cassette;

wherein master data for the at least one cassette are produced in an automatic teller and transmitted to a service center independently of the at least one cassette, and the master data are suitable for evaluating the information contained in the cassette data.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the threshold value is variable.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the threshold value is specified in dependence on one or both time of day and weekday.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the threshold value is specified in dependence on the time duration required for replacing the at least one cassette.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the threshold value corresponds to a number of bank notes contained in the at least one cassette which is lower than the maximum capacity of the at least one cassette specified by a maximum permissible number of bank notes.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the threshold value corresponds to a total value of bank notes contained in the at least one cassette which is lower than the maximum capacity of the at least one cassette specified by a maximum permissible total value.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, including multiple cassettes, and wherein the threshold value corresponds to a total value of the bank notes present in all cassettes.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8]]1, wherein the multiple cassettes are associated with an automatic teller and wherein the cassette data contain information about number, denomination, currency, total value, time of deposit at the automatic teller and identity of a depositor.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[10]]1, wherein the information contained in the cassette data is used for checking the bank notes contained in the at least one cassette.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An automatic teller~~A system comprising one or both an automatic teller and a deposit device ~~operated in accordance with the method according to claim 1~~, the system arranged to:

determine the filling level of at least one cassette,

compare the determined filling level of the at least one cassette with at least one threshold value lower than a maximum capacity of the at least one cassette,

produce a signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value if the comparison yields an excess, and

cause a replacement of the at least one cassette for which the signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value was produced;

wherein information about the bank notes contained in the at least one cassette is stored as cassette data, in a special, non-evaluable data format, in a nonvolatile memory associated with the at least one cassette;

wherein master data for the at least one cassette are produced in the automatic teller and transmitted to a service center independently of the at least one cassette, and the master data are suitable for evaluating the information contained in the cassette data.

13. (Currently Amended) A cassette for bank notes~~, comprising~~ operable with one or both an automatic teller and a deposit device ~~according to claim 12~~, the cassette arranged to:

determine the filling level of the cassette,

compare the determined filling level of the cassette with at least one threshold value lower than a maximum capacity of the cassette,

produce a signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value if the comparison yields an excess, and

cause a replacement of the cassette for which the signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value was produced;

wherein information about the bank notes contained in the cassette is stored as cassette data, in a special, non-evaluable data format, in a nonvolatile memory associated with the cassette;

wherein master data for the at least one cassette are produced in the automatic teller and transmitted to a service center independently of the cassette, and the master data are suitable for evaluating the information contained in the cassette data.